

IN THE CLAIMS

1-5. Cancelled

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6. (Original) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, at least one search broker and at least one resource provider, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for sending a resource query executable by said resource requestor;

[ second instructions executable by said search broker for registering said resource provider;

[ third instructions executable by said search broker for finding said resource provider matching said resource query;

fourth instructions executable by said search broker for sending said resource query to said resource provider; and

fifth instructions executable by said resource provider for finding resources available matching said resource query.

7. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 6 further comprising sixth instructions executable by said resource provider for sending search results to said resource requestor.

8. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 7 further comprising seventh instructions executable by said resource provider for finding search brokers in said computer network.

9. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 8 further comprising eighth instructions executable by said resource provider for obtaining a resource

description.

10. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 6 further comprising ninth instructions executable by said resource provider for sending a resource query to a computer coupled to said resource provider.

11-16. Cancelled

17. (Original) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, at least one search broker and at least one resource provider, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for registering said resource provider with said search broker;  
second instructions for sending a resource query from said resource requestor to said search broker;  
third instructions for sending said resource query from said search broker to said resource provider;  
fourth instructions for searching said resource provider for local resources based on said resource query; and  
fifth instructions for sending search results from said resource provider to said resource requestor.

18. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 17 further comprising sixth instructions for sending said resource query from said resource provider to a computer coupled to said resource provider.

19. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 17 further comprising sixth instructions for generating at said search broker a registration database for

said resource provider.

20. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 19 further comprising seventh instructions for determining whether said resource provider contains a resource matching said resource query.

21. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 20 wherein said resource query comprises a keyword.

22. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 21 further comprising eighth instructions for selecting said resource provider based on said keyword of said resource query.

23. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 22 further comprising ninth instructions for ranking said search results at said resource requestor.

24-31. Cancelled

32. (Original) A computer program product for use in conjunction with a distributed network comprising a resource requestor, a plurality of search brokers and a plurality of resource providers, the computer program product comprising a computer readable storage medium and a computer program mechanism embedded therein, the computer program mechanism comprising:

first instructions for registering said plurality of resource providers with said plurality of search brokers;

second instructions for sending a resource query from said resource requestor to at least a subset of said plurality of search brokers;

third instructions for sending said resource query from said subset of said plurality of search brokers to at least a subset of said plurality of resource providers;

fourth instructions for searching for local resources based on said resource query;  
and

fifth instructions for sending search results from said subset of said plurality of resource providers to said resource requestor.

33. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 32 further comprising sixth instructions for sending said resource query from a resource provider to a computer coupled to said resource provider.

34. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 32 further comprising sixth instructions for generating at said plurality of search brokers registration databases for said plurality of resource providers.

35. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 34 further comprising seventh instructions for determining whether said subset of said plurality of resource providers contains a resource that matches said resource query.

36. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 35 wherein said resource query comprises a keyword.

37. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 36 further comprising eighth instructions for selecting a resource provider based on said keyword of said resource query.